

School Bill—New Brunswick.

It is now generally conceded that the present School Law of this Province does not meet the requirements of the Country.

One of the greatest blunders generally made in the administration of Colonial Government is, our appropriating to ourselves all the machinery incident to old wealthy and popular countries.

While we have not more population than that of a Borough Town of the Mother Country, still we have nearly all the political machinery common to the British Islands, with their 26,000,000 inhabitants. And this machinery we are maintaining at a disproportionate cost,—a cost far above our means and requirements. This principle is also extended to our Educational machinery. We are paying, annually, about £2,600, not for education, but to those whose duty is little more than to make reports, rules and regulations, while the teachers do all the real good actually done. This sum is entirely too much for an infant Colony like New Brunswick with 220,000 inhabitants to pay for simply reporting 750 Parish Schools.

We should endeavour to use an old adage, to "creep before we walk,"—it is too soon for us, in this infant state, to adopt all the educational machinery necessary to countries with largely developed resources, and over one hundred times our population.

We have arrived, in educational matters, at that state of things, that the local officers and guardians of youth have thrown the *onus*, if onerous at all, of examinations etc., upon those who get the salaries, consequently, that wholesome guardianship which should be exercised by local parties, is not generally adopted, and the whole control is left to the flying visits of the Chief Superintendent of Schools, and the Inspector,—the latter spending an hour in each School twice a year. The law makes provision for the election of School Committees, but we have not heard of a single district as yet which has done so; and as for Trustees taking any special interest, no one thinks of it.

This, as far as we can learn, being the true state of the workings of the

educational system of this Province, it should be the earnest desire of all those feeling an interest in this important subject, to use their influence with the legislature, which will shortly resume its sittings, to get this law amended so as to meet the requirements of the country.

The gross amount annually paid towards the support of Colleges, Academies, Grammar Schools, and other High Schools in the Province, amounts to nearly £6,000, and still we are endowing Training and Model Schools, at a large expense to the Province. Why pay *six thousand pounds* per annum, towards the support of these institutions, the Colleges, etc., without binding the recipients of such an amount, to qualify candidates for Teachers of Common Schools? Certainly, the Professors, Preceptresses, and other Teachers officiating in these institutions, ought to be fully qualified for the task of training and otherwise fitting the youth of our country for the office of Teachers of Parish Schools; and these institutions ought also to be well supplied with Books and Philosophical apparatus; and if they are not so supplied, and do not possess these essentials, the government allowance should be at once withdrawn; and if they do possess the necessary ability to qualify the youth of our country to take charge of the Elementary Schools of the Province, then why maintain Training and Model Schools at an additional cost of £600, besides the cost of buildings, etc.

It may be argued that these, so called higher institutions of education, are all sectarian, and parties entering within, their walls will have their religious sentiments tampered with, which we have no doubt is too often the case; but no matter, grant all this to be true; does not all the prominent religious bodies in the Province draw largely from the revenues of the country in aid of their institutions? Teachers generally speaking, had, in a religious point of view, from the ranks of Episcopalians, Methodists, Roman Catholics, Baptists, and Presbyterians, and these religious bodies, the Presbyterians excepted,